



ORDER NUMBER
G-98-20

IN THE MATTER OF
the *Utilities Commission Act*, RSBC 1996, Chapter 473

and

Corix Multi-Utility Services Inc.
Application for Tariff Changes due to COVID-19

BEFORE:

T.A. Loski, Panel Chair
A. K. Fung, QC, Commissioner
R. I. Mason, Commissioner

on April 29, 2020

ORDER

WHEREAS:

- A. On April 20, 2020, Corix Multi-Utility Services Inc. (Corix) filed an application with the British Columbia Utilities Commission (BCUC) seeking approval for tariff changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic (Application);
- B. Corix states that the Application applies to all eight energy utilities owned and operated by Corix and regulated by the BCUC, and listed the utilities in Table 1 of the Application (Corix Utilities). The Corix Utilities are:
- Dockside Green Energy Utility
 - Burnaby Mountain District Energy Utility
 - Neighborhood District Energy System at the University of British Columbia
 - Sun Rivers Gas
 - Sun Rivers Electric
 - Sonoma Pines Gas
 - Sonoma Pines Electric
 - Panorama Propane
- C. In the Application, Corix is seeking approval, pursuant to sections 59 to 61 of the *Utilities Commission Act* (UCA), of the following for each of the Corix Utilities:

- (i) The temporary suspension of the existing Late Payment Charge (LPC) clause in the tariff for each of the Corix Utilities until June 18, 2020;
 - (ii) To cease the suspension of the LPC clause in the respective tariffs for each of the Corix Utilities on the day after June 18, 2020;
 - (iii) That any subsequent direction by the BCUC to the Corix Utilities regarding suspension of disconnections automatically changes the date in items (i) and (ii) above from June 18, 2020 to any other date directed by the BCUC;
 - (iv) The establishment of a non-rate base COVID-19 Deferral Account for each Corix Utility to record: (a) the difference between revenue billed and revenue collected on a monthly basis from the issuance of the first bill (bill for March 2020 sent in April 2020) through to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic; (b) subsequent payments by customers for bills previously not paid during the COVID-19 pandemic after practical bill collection efforts; and (c) incremental costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Corix proposes that that the deferral account will attract carrying costs calculated and applied on a monthly basis at Corix's cost of capital; and
 - (v) For each Corix Utility, in its discretion, to implement a flexible payment plan for customers with outstanding balances. Each Corix Utility may implement a flexible payment plan or a standard repayment schedule on a case by case basis.
- D. Corix states that the Application was filed to provide financial relief for customers during the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining the financial viability of each of the Corix Utilities;
- E. On April 23, 2020, Corix submitted an amendment to the April 20th Application requesting that the BCUC approve the requests on an interim basis as soon as practicable without notice pursuant to section 91 of the UCA;
- F. On April 23, 2020, the BCUC issued information requests (IRs) to Corix regarding the Application and Corix filed its responses on April 27, 2020; and
- G. The BCUC has reviewed the Application, evidence and submissions of Corix, without notice, and finds that interim approval is warranted. The BCUC considers that the establishment of a public hearing process and regulatory timetable is also warranted.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to sections 59 to 61 and 91 of the *Utilities Commission Act*, the BCUC orders as follows:

1. Corix and each of the Corix Utilities is granted interim approval to:
 - (i) Temporarily suspend the existing LPC clause in the respective tariffs for each of the Corix Utilities until June 18, 2020.
 - (ii) Cease the suspension of the LPC clause in the respective tariffs for each of the Corix Utilities on June 19, 2020.
 - (iii) Establish a non-rate base COVID-19 Deferral Account for each of the Corix Utilities to record: (a) the difference between revenue billed and revenue collected on a monthly basis from the issuance of the first bill (bill for March 2020 sent in April 2020) through to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic; (b) subsequent payments by customers for bills previously not paid during the COVID-10 pandemic

after practical bill collection efforts; and (c) incremental costs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The deferral account will attract carrying costs calculated and applied on a monthly basis at Corix's weighted average cost of capital.

- (iv) Implement a flexible payment plan for customers of each of the Corix Utilities with outstanding balances and each of the Corix Utilities may implement a flexible payment plan or a standard repayment schedule on a case by case basis.
- 2. Corix must provide notice of the Application and a copy of this order, electronically where possible to all customers of the Corix Utilities by no later than Wednesday, May 6, 2020.
- 3. Corix must publish notice of this Application on its website and any other social media platforms as soon as reasonably possible, but no later than Wednesday, May 6, 2020.
- 4. A public hearing process is established, as set out in the regulatory timetable attached as Appendix A to this Order.

DATED at the City of Vancouver, in the Province of British Columbia, this 29th day of April 2020.

BY ORDER

Original signed by:

T. A. Loski
Commissioner

Attachment

Corix Multi-Utility Services Inc.
Application for Tariff Changes due to COVID-19

REGULATORY TIMETABLE

Action	Date (2020)
Intervener Registration	Wednesday, May 13
Interveners to advise the BCUC of their intent, if any, to submit written Information Requests on this Application to Corix	Wednesday, May 13
Further Process	To be determined